

Message Text

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14
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /015 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, PINR, EFIN, JA
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON REIICHI SHIMAMOTO, ADVISOR TO GOV OF
BANK OF JAPAN

REF: STATE 230412

1. SHIMAMOTO RETURNED FROM LONDON IN FEB TO TAKE UP POSITION OF ADVISOR TO GOV OF BANK OF JAPAN IN THE FOREIGN DEPT (POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY MASARU HAYAMI, WHO HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO DIR OF FOREIGN DEPT). PERSON HANDLES BROAD INTL MONETARY MATTERS, REPRESENTING BOJ AT MEETINGS SUCH AS WP3 OF OECD, IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE AND IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AS WELL AS OTHER MONETARY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING BOJ VIEWS AND ADVISING GOV, DEP GOV, DIRECTORS AND SR STAFF ON INTL FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AFFAIRS. HE CAN ACT AS A FREE LANCER AND IS NOT SADDLED WITH ANY DAY-TO-DAY OPERATING RESPONSIBILITIES (WHICH ARE HANDLED BY DIR OR DEP DIR OF FOREIGN DEPT). HE DOES NOT ATTEND MONTHLY MEETING OF GOVS AT BIS BUT OCCASIONALLY IS JAPANESE REP AT SPECIALIZED BIS MEETINGS.

2. IN HIS PREVIOUS POSITION AS CHIEF BOJ REP IN EUROPE, STATIONED IN LONDON, SHIMAMOTO ACCOMPANIED DIR OF FOREIGN DEPT AT MONTHLY BIS MEETINGS. THEREFORE HE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH VIEWS AND PERSONALITIES OF OTHER MAJOR CENTRAL BANKERS. SHIMAMOTO IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COMPETENT. IN NEGOTIATIONS HE IS PERSISTENT AND A STRONG ADVOCATE OF JAPAN'S POSITION. HE APPEARS

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TO TAKE A RATHER INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE, PERHAPS BECAUSE HE HAS

LITTLE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY. NEVERTHELESS HE IS MORE FORTH-COMING THAN THE DIR OF THE FOREIGN DEPT, MASARU HAYAMI.

3. RELEVANT BIOGRAPHIC DATA IS AS FOLLOWS: MARRIED, 2 CHILDREN. COMPETENT GOLFER, BORN IN TOKYO SEP 13, 1927. GRAD OF UNIV OF TOKYO FACULTY OF ECONOMICS 1950. JOINED BOJ IN 1950 AND HAS HAD ALMOST 7 YRS OF OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS. FROM OCT 61-OCT 63 HE WAS DEP REP IN NEW YORK; JULY 67-SEP 69 DEP CHIEF REP IN EUROPE (LONDON); OCT 69 CHIEF, BUDGET CONTROL DIV, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING DEPT; OCT 70 CHIEF GEN MGMT DIV, BUSINESS DEPT; NOV 71 MANAGER, SHIMONOSEKI BRANCH; JUL 73-FEB 76, CHIEF REP IN EUROPE (LONDON).
HODGSON

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